



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DAEN-CCZ-A

19 APR 1986

SUBJECT: Office of Counsel Preventive Law Initiative

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. As Chief Counsel of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, I am responsible for ensuring that you receive practical, accurate, and timely legal advice from attorneys within your command. In keeping with the Chief of Engineers' theme of "Leaders in Customer CARE," I am implementing a program that should result in providing you, our "customer," with even better legal service. Preventive law--the practice of law in such a way that legal problems are anticipated and avoided, or at least minimized--is the ultimate goal of a legal counsel. To advance the practice of preventive law within USACE, I have formed an active committee composed primarily of FOA attorneys that will study the preventive law needs of the Corps and recommend measures that I can institute to ensure that my responsibilities to you are met. To complement the committee's more general focus, I have challenged the head of your Office of Counsel to examine your specific preventive law needs. I now ask you to build upon that challenge: have your legal staff work with you to identify your legal needs, and then work with your staff to develop creative methods of meeting those needs before they turn into actual legal problems.

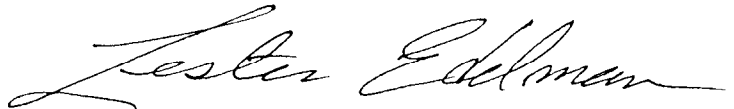
2. The success or failure of any preventive law program ultimately depends on the willingness of the client--the "customer"--to seek an attorney's advice before a legal problem develops. A successful preventive law practice, then, is in reality a partnership between lawyer and client, and it is the responsibility of both lawyer and client to see that the partnership works. As your Office of Counsel is examining its role in the partnership, I encourage you to examine yours. By understanding what you want from your attorneys, and by expressing your needs to them, you will be taking the first step in establishing a

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productive partnership that will benefit your command and USACE as a whole. I stand ready to assist you and your legal staff as that partnership is reaffirmed--or established--within your command, and I thank you for making the practice of preventive law an integral part of the Corps of Engineers' service to the Nation.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lester Edelman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

LESTER EDELMAN
Chief Counsel

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